



STATE ALUMNI VOICE

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All Alumni Reception

On December 8, 2012 Ambassador Greta C. Holtz hosted an "All U.S. Alumni Reception" in honor of the Omani alumni of different U.S. government programs. The reception was well received and alumni of various age groups, cultural and educational backgrounds attended the event. Ambassador Holtz gave a speech on this occasion addressing the efforts of alumni and the importance of their representation of Oman when they were in the U.S. She also highlighted their remarkable leading role in their home



Ambassador Greta C. Holtz, middle, with a group of alumni



Tara Abdulrahman, MEPI coordinator, with a group of Omani alumni

country when they returned from their exchange experiences. More than 60 alumni of undergraduate and graduate, educational, political and cultural programs and scholarships including, IVLP, LDF, FLTA, SUSI, Humphrey, Fulbright Scholars, YES and Access, expressed their appreciation and happiness at the embassy initiative to host such a huge gathering and reconnect all Omani U.S. alumni from all the regions in Oman.

Embassy Participates in SQU Diplomatic Corps Open Day



APAO, Erin Uzes welcoming guests at the open day

The U.S. Embassy in Oman represented by Ambassador Greta C. Holtz and the Public Affairs Section participated in the open day organized by Sultan Qaboos University for diplomatic missions and the private sector on December 10. The embassy section included books, magazines, brochures, and exchange program information to educate the public about programs provided through the U.S. Embassy in Oman. Many SQU students showed great interest in U.S. cultural and educational programs and study in the U.S.

Luncheon on Mentoring Omani Youth Dec 16, 2012

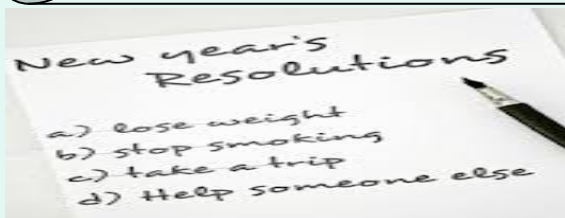
To engage and involve alumni in embassy outreach and youth empowerment activities, Ambassador Greta C. Holtz hosted a “**Luncheon on Mentoring Omani Youth**”. The alumni group, which represented different educational, cultural, and scientific fields of various leading institutions in the Sultanate, met with the ambassador and discussed areas of cooperation and better implementation and orientation of embassy programs to promote mentoring between more experienced alumni and younger alumni and Omani youth. Some of the discussion suggestions were mentoring programs to increase children and adolescents’ literacy, spreading awareness about U.S. education and culture, conducting mentoring summer camps in the U.S. and Oman, and using technology to enhance alumni and youth connections and create a sense of community among Omani youth.



Ambassador Greta C. Holtz talking to alumni

Alumni Corner

New Year's Resolution



Amal AL Junaibi, 2012 E-teacher Scholarship alumna, shared her 2012 ups and downs and her 2013 resolution. She said “Some of the good achievements in 2012 were being an English language instructor during a summer camp with AM-IDEAST, getting accepted in two Department of State online courses for teachers, and teaching grade 10 students at my school.”

“For 2013, I plan to apply for my graduate study (MA) and get accepted for the “Leaders for Democracy Fellowship Program”

Maryam AL Haremi, a SUSI MEPI 2011 alumna, said “In 2013, I want to achieve something remarkable, contribute to my society and make a difference in someone’s life.”

E-Teacher Scholarship



Abdullah AL Matani, second from left at the E-teacher Orientation 2012.

Abdullah said “The E- Teacher Scholarship has enabled me to further my education. Many people do not understand the importance of the opportunity that online learning offers to so many different people. I knew that this was my chance to finally get a college education and study at prestigious American colleges and universities from home.” He adds “Online learning is a wonderful opportunity for people who normally could not attend class for many reasons such as physical limitations, lack of transportation or the harsh realities of work.”

Community Engagement

NESA UGRAD Students Participate in Campus and Community Activities

Maytha, an Omani NESA fellow at West Liberty University in the U.S. joined a team of other students to fix and rebuild damaged houses because of a tornado that hit the small town of West Liberty, WV, in March 2012. Maytha said "I met the owner of the second house I worked on, she told me the story of the storm, and I had the most complex feelings. I felt really sad and thankful. Being able to help her family get their life back made me really proud."



Maytha installs insulation in a house

English Language Specialist Dr. Salas visits Oman

The Ministry of Education in Oman in cooperation with the U.S. State Department and the Regional English Language Office in Bahrain hosted English Language Specialist Dr. Spencer Salas to conduct a number of workshops for English language teachers in Dakhilya, Sharqiya and Muscat governorates. Dr. Salas is an Assistant Professor in Teaching English as a Second Language at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

Dr. Salas gave workshops titled "Making Meaning Together: Engaging Adolescent Language Learners." These workshops aim at engaging participants in the possibilities of

participatory literacy instructions for the secondary grades. Interactive workshop activities provide teachers with hands-on practice with various strategies for leveraging adolescent readers' and writers' "fund of knowledge" as they engage with texts. Dr. Salas was in Oman for a two-week visit in early December.



Dr. Salas at a teacher workshop in Muscat



<http://americanenglish.state.gov>



A Website for Teachers and Learners of English as a Foreign Language Abroad

Trace Effects
Video GAME



Video Game

Trace Effects

A collaborative English language video game experience for students ages 12-16. Learn English and explore American culture through puzzles, games, and adventure in an interactive world.

American English is a resource center for teaching and learning about American English language and culture. This website provides a variety of engaging materials and [resources](#) for teachers' professional development and for students in the classroom. Both teachers and students will find new ways to practice English and learn more about the United States.

Visit : <http://americanenglish.state.gov/trace-effects>

ALUMNI REGISTRATION:

- Go to alumni.state.gov
- Click on “Join Now”
- Follow prompts on screen to set up your account
- Passwords must include 3 of 4 types of characters: upper case, lower case, numbers or symbols.
- Include correct program information (program type and date)
- Enter your name as it appears on your passport
- Click ‘submit’ at the bottom of the screen.

Stay in Touch!

Through the State Alumni Website, alumni.state.gov, stay up-to-date with your fellow alumni in Oman and throughout the world. You can also let us know what you’ve been up to and tell us how we can assist you in your endeavors! Register for an account today.

U.S. Embassy Programs

1. **E-Teacher Scholarship Program-English Teacher Professional Development Distance Learning Program**
2. **The Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant (FLTA) Program for 2013**
3. **The Hubert Humphrey Fellowship Program for 2013**
4. **The International Writing Program at the University of Iowa (IWP)**
5. **NESA Undergraduate Exchange Program**
6. **The Study of the U.S. Institute for Student Leaders on New Media Journalism**
7. **Fulbright Visiting Scholar Program**
8. **Youth Exchange and Study (YES) Program**
9. **Fulbright Foreign Student Program**
10. **Teaching Excellence and Achievement Program (TEA) for Secondary School Teacher**

EVENTS & DEADLINES

1. E-teacher Scholarship Orientation .
January 6, 2013
2. Alumni Career Development Workshop, Nizwa. **January 24, 2013**
3. YES Alumni Community Service Discussion. **January 27, 2013**
4. American Corner Opening, Nizwa University. **February, 2013**
5. MEPI Student Leaders Application Deadline. **February 25, 2013**
6. NESA Undergraduate Application Deadline. **March 15, 2013**
7. TEA Program Application Deadline. **May 15, 2013**

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Contact: AL-KharusiSS@state.gov

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